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# Seeds of Honey Plants

Offered by

## PELETT GARDENS

Atlantic, Iowa

1950

*Featuring*

**UNUSUAL NEW PLANTS**

**Promising New Forage Crops  
Ornamentals for Flower Gardens  
and Borders**

**Honey Plants for Naturalizing**



Looking Ahead

*A Succession of Honey Plants Are  
Essential to Maintaining Strong Colonies*



## ***FORETHOUGHT***

When the country was new and there was much unused land which grew to a large variety of native plants, something of a continuous nectar flow could more or less be taken for granted. But with the greater utilization of our land areas and with the mowing and spraying of our roadsides, our minor sources of nectar are greatly decreasing until in some localities there are not many places for the bees to forage between the main honey flows. The principal honey flow may come from one or two plants which are often one or more of the agricultural crops of the locality. But also important is the presence of some nectar bloom between the main honey flows in order to maintain strong colonies ready to gather the honey at the opportune time and in so doing perform their essential pollination service.

While the continuity of nectar flows may vary greatly according to locality, the problem created by the absence of minor flows has already become acute in many localities. At the same time and largely due to the same causes, the wild pollinating insects are decreasing which makes the presence of honey bees yet more essential to our agriculture. There are at least fifty of our agricultural crops which are dependent upon the honey bee in whole or in part for their pollination. Without this service, trees may not bear fruit or flowers set seed. In the old days the pollination was performed mostly by wild bees but with the advance of civilization their nesting places are largely destroyed and the present widespread use of sprays for the destruction of harmful insects is adding greatly to their extinction. Thus we have come to an era in which the prosperity of agriculture and the welfare of a nation are dependent upon the presence of honeybees for pollination.

It is not only of first importance to beekeepers, but also of general public concern that conditions prevail which make keeping of more bees profitable. Thus we must look to our flower garden and shrubbery plantings, to roadside and park plantings, and where possible, to utilization of unused land to furnish the succession of nectar sources. If, in this way, we can make bee-keeping more successful, there will be present more honeybees to perform the great service of pollination.

# ***Suggestions for Improving Bee Pasture***

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## **BY PLANTING OR ENCOURAGING OF AGRICULTURAL CROPS WHICH ARE ALSO GOOD HONEY PLANTS**

Needless to say, this offers most in the way of quick bee pasture improvement. Quite obviously, if field crops are grown on an acreage basis which are also good honey plants, nearby apiaries will benefit greatly so long as such crops remain. This is worth some study and effort and some research in the way of trying out new crops in a small way to find those adapted to your locality.

## **SELECTING AND PLANTING FLOWER GARDENS AND SHRUBBERY WHICH ARE GOOD HONEY PLANTS**

It is, of course, too much to expect that the planting of ornamentals which you may make in a limited space will make a big difference in the bee pasture available. Still, if introductions can be made which become popular in the locality, it could in time make quite a difference, and especially so if some honey plants can be promoted for park and roadside plantings. Anyway, if you make plantings of ornamentals for nectar you can gain much enjoyment watching the new developments and the bees working them and at the same time add a bit to the nectar flow.

## **NATURALIZING HONEY PLANTS ON UNUSED AREAS**

While this is no quick and easy way to make yours a good location for bees, looking ahead over a period of years, in many situations it is entirely practical to select and make plantings of good honey plants adaptable to available unused land. It may take some effort to get established on uncultivated areas the first scattering of plants you select for the purpose. But if selections are made which are suitable to the environment they should gradually spread around and in time add substantially to the nectar flow. We have a number of correspondents who consider such efforts well worth while. We have a friend in southern Missouri whose apiary is located bordering on much broken land through which runs a small stream with woods bordering it. He has established Simpson Honey Plant and Golden Honey Plant in spots in the partially wooded areas and it has spread around and with the time has substantially improved his apiary location.

While most apiary sites are not favored with large wild areas adjacent, there is often available some gullies, woodlots or even fence rows which can provide something in the way of bee forage. We know of some who have improved their bee-pasture by starting Purple Loosestrife in wet places. This plant, which will not spread except under moist conditions, has naturalized to become plentiful in some localities on wet and boggy land. Many of the plants listed in this catalog will grow wild in situations suited to them.

## BIRDSFOOT TREFOIL

(*Lotus Corniculatus*)

Birdsfoot Trefoil is a fine stem, long lived legume forage crop which is fast gaining favor in American agriculture. It is especially valuable for use in permanent pastures and is often sown in combination with Kentucky Bluegrass. It seems adapted to a wide variety of soil conditions and succeeds well on some soils which are so low in fertility that alfalfa and clovers do poorly. It is drought resistant once it is well established. This is a crop to give a first consideration for hill land you wish to seed permanently. Indications are that it is adaptable to most of the northern half of the United States. It makes good hay.

In England it is regarded as a valuable bee plant. From Vermont and Minnesota come reports of good crops of very fine quality honey from it. While it is too soon to judge in full the extent of Birdsfoot Trefoil as a honey plant in this country, reports indicate that it is generally of value to the bees and we may expect it to be a good source of nectar at least for some localities. It blooms here, beginning in June and continuing intermittently into September.



**Showing the spreading growth of Birdsfoot Trefoil**

For field culture, seed carefully on a firm, well prepared seedbed; three to five pounds per acre with Kentucky Bluegrass; or a smaller amount may be included with a permanent pasture mixture. Early spring seeding is most often practiced.

Ask us for reprint, "Birdsfoot Trefoil—the Coming Legume."

There are two varieties of Birdsfoot Trefoil, the Broadleaf and the Narrow Leaf. The Broadleaf variety is superior under most conditions. There are several strains of Broadleaf variety. We feature the Empire strain of Broadleaf variety which is offspring from plants naturalized in the Preston Hollow, New York, area years ago. This strain has proven hardy and long lived over a long period in New



York state and is now giving some very good results in the Middlewest. Seed that is offered at a low price is almost sure to not be of this origin and may be other than domestic seed.

**CERTIFIED** seed, Empire strain of Broadleaf variety. Trial quantities, packet, 15c; pound with can of inoculant, \$3.00; postpaid.

We will have a good amount of this Certified seed this winter and will try to be in position to supply your needs for field plantings. However, due to short seed crop the past season, prices and availability may vary. Please write us for prices on larger quantity.

## **BIG TREFOIL**

(*Lotus major*)

Big Trefoil is receiving wide acceptance in some of our northwest coastal areas where it succeeds both on lowlands and on poorer hill land where the soils remain relatively moist. It is not drowth resistant as is the Birdsfoot Trefoil, but will grow on wet land and will withstand periods of flooding. It is reported as very acid tolerant and succeeding on soils high in acidity. It does not prove hardy for us here in Iowa and is better adapted to warmer climates.

Big Trefoil would seem to hold much promise for situations in the south and middle-south where a legume is needed to meet the above requirements. It is reported long lived and spreads and thickens up by underground rhizomes. It is used for both pasture and hay. Try it, it may be just the legume you are looking for.

Big Trefoil furnishes a great abundance of bloom. Honey bees visit the flowers freely and it is apparently a good honey plant.

The seed, which is very small, should be sown almost on top of a very well prepared and firmed seedbed. The seed should be inoculated with a special culture which is absolutely necessary for its success.

Seed,  $\frac{1}{4}$  pound with can of inoculant, \$1.00; per pound, including inoculant, \$2.50; postpaid.

## **WAGNER FLAT PEA**

(*Lathyrus Silvestris Wagneri*)

This plant is an exceptionally heavy producer of forage for livestock. Experiments have shown that it is capable of yielding an exceptional amount of forage and tests indicate that it is very high in protein content. A deep rooting perennial which starts slowly and requires two to three years to become fully established. On cultivated land it requires clean cultivation the first season. It is being used for forage in some sections on newly logged off land where it is adapted to hill planting between the stumps. Once well established it smothers out competing growth.

For those who will give it the necessary attention to get it established, Wagner Pea apparently offers a long time heavy yield of forage. Once established, it is reported to succeed on poor soil, stand much dry weather and to last for a lifetime. In Washington State some old stands are reported which are 40 or more years old. We have reports of yields of three and four tons of dry hay per acre from a single cutting. The dry hay has been analyzed as containing 21 to 30 per cent protein, which is very high. Some

classes of livestock, as sheep and rabbits, have been poisoned under certain conditions by eating freely of the immature foliage. This seems to suggest that it should not be used for sheep pasture. We have no knowledge of this plant ever being injurious to any other classes of livestock or of its ever being injurious in the more advanced stages of maturity. It is used for both pasture and hay.



**Melvin Pellett with Frank Pellett examining heavy growth of Wagner Pea**

The bees work it much and reports indicate that it is a good honey plant. It begins blooming in June, continuing intermittently throughout the season.

Ask us for reprint, "A Promising Forage Crop. (Wagner Pea.)"

Seed, per packet, 20c;  $\frac{1}{4}$  pound, \$1.00; per pound, \$2.50; five pounds, \$10.00; postpaid. It is best to inoculate the seed before planting, using sweet pea or vetch inoculant. A can of this we will include with each order for  $\frac{1}{4}$  pound or more of seed.

## **SAINFOIN**

**(Onobrychis)**

Sainfoin is the main source of honey in some European countries where it is extensively grown as a forage crop. It is drowth resistant and will grow in some situations where clovers do poorly. As a honey plant it has few equals, since the bees visit the flowers freely from the time of the first opening until the last have faded. It is a pretty sight when in bloom. It blooms in May and June. Honey from it is of fine quality.

Seed, packet, 15c;  $\frac{3}{4}$  pound with can of inoculant, \$1.00; 2 pounds or more with inoculant at \$1.00 per pound; postpaid.



## PELLETT CLOVER

(*Trifolium ambiguum*)

This very unusual clover spreads rapidly from deep rhizomous roots and unlike most clovers increases from year to year. The amount of root growth is almost amazing. It



Rows planted 3½ feet apart in April began to grow together in September.

thrives wonderfully on our grounds. A well established plant measured strong roots three to four feet long, and a



Pellett Clover root system as dug from six feet of row one year after planting.

top spread of three feet. The rate of increase from rhizomes is very surprising. Rows planted 3½ feet apart in April were growing together in places five months later and early the second season the clover completely filled the spaces between the rows, and the ground was heavily bound with roots. From all indications it is entirely winter hardy.

This clover leafs out very early in the spring. At first only basil leaves appear. In our plots these leaves are usually very large and the individual leafstalks are often more than a foot high. In late May the flowering stems appear which are three feet long at height of bloom and each stem has many flowering heads at different height.

The plant blooms in June and July and the bees visit the flowers freely. The corolla tubes are short so that the



**Pellett Clover in bloom.**

nectar is readily available to honey bees. It appears to be the equal of any as a honey plant. It usually sets seed as well as most other clovers in our locality and can also be propagated by seed.

Reports indicate that this clover varies greatly in its behavior in different localities and does not do nearly so well in all situations as it does for us. However, its behavior here and some other places is such as to indicate it has great possibilities and to promote much enthusiasm for it. We believe it is a most interesting plant for your trial and one which may be very useful once some difficulties in its adaptation can be overcome. Animals like it.

Root divisions of this clover can be planted in either fall or spring. In the northern states, early spring planting is probably the best. In the south and middle south, fall and winter planting may be preferable.

We offer root divisions which will be well packed for shipping.

Seed is not available.

Root Divisions: 25 for \$2.00, 100 for \$5.00, 250 for \$10.00, 500 for \$18.00, postpaid. Per 1,000, \$30.00, not prepaid. Large quantity prices on request. Shipping season, late fall, winter and spring up to May 10. Please give preferred shipping date when ordering.

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**WHITE DUTCH CLOVER****(*Trifolium repens*)**

White Dutch or pasture clover has long been the main dependence for a honey crop over a wide area of the Northeastern States. It is an important source of nectar in much of the Middlewest. The plant is easily naturalized along the roadsides, in pastures and waste places. Should be included in any mixture of grasses for pasture.

Seed, per packet, 15c; per pound \$1.50; postpaid.

**LADINO CLOVER**

Ladino is a giant white clover which makes two or three times the growth of ordinary white clover where it does well. It is proving very popular in many places as a pasture and hay plant. It is best adapted to regions having good moisture conditions and fertile soils. Honey from it is very similar to that produced from the common white clover.

The seed is very small. Two pounds per acre well distributed on a well prepared seedbed should be sufficient.

As insurance that it is pure Ladino we offer only **CERTIFIED** seed, packet 15c; per pound \$2.30; postpaid.

**STRAWBERRY CLOVER**

(*Trifolium fragiferum*) is a new clover which is salt-tolerant and will grow on some such soils where other clovers will not grow. It will usually make its best growth on wet or moist soils and will survive periods of flooding. Its adaptation to such conditions make it very valuable for some wet and saline soils where other legumes cannot be grown. Good for pasture and soil building in some sections and should be tried elsewhere on wet lands.

Apparently a good honey plant.

Seed, per packet, 15c; ½ pound \$1.00, postpaid.

**SWEET CLOVER****(*Melilotus*)**

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**NOTE:** We offer sweet clovers and vetch for your convenience in securing trial quantities. If you want larger quantities you can probably secure them in your localities. If not, write us and we will suggest a source of supply.

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Sweet clover ranks among the best honey plants in this country. Climatically, it is adapted to practically all the United States and southern Canada. It will thrive on a wide range of soils and is extensively used as a forage crop. There are two common varieties of biennial sweet clover, the white blossom and the yellow blossom. The yellow blossom variety blooms earlier than the white blossom. We offer seed of white blossom and yellow blossom mixed.

Packet, 15c, two pounds for \$1.00, postpaid.

**HUBAM CLOVER** is the white annual sweet clover. Unlike the biennial sweet clovers, this one completes its life cycle all in one season. It is of use in farm rotation where a quick soil builder is desired. It is one of the best plants for honey and can be depended upon for bloom the first season when planted early. It blooms over a long

season and often means an additional honey flow after other clover blooms are past.

Seed, packet, 15c; pound, 75c; postpaid.

### MADRID SWEET CLOVER

Madrid is a new outstanding variety of biennial yellow clover. It is outstanding for early seedling vigor and high yields of forage. It appears to be well suited to the great plains and corn belt sections. It is a heavy seed producer, maturing slightly later than the common yellow.

Seed, packet 15c; pound 75c; three pounds \$2.00; postpaid.

### EVERGREEN SWEET CLOVER

Another fairly recent development, this white blossomed variety blooms later in the season than most other biennial sweet clovers. It is of special interest to bee-keepers because it continues to bloom over a long period but for the same reason the seed does not ripen at one time and is hard to harvest in quantity. It is reported to have furnished good bee pasture for over three months.

Seed, packet 15c; pound \$1.00; four pounds \$2.75; postpaid.

### SPECIAL PACKET COLLECTION — FORAGE CROPS FOR NECTAR

One packet of seed each of Birdsfoot Trefoil, Wagner Flat Pea, Madrid Sweet Clover, Evergreen Sweet Clover, Hubam (annual) Sweet Clover, common Sweet Clover, Sainfoin, Ladino Clover, Hairy Vetch, Strawberry Clover.

10 PACKETS OF SEED FOR \$1.00, POSTPAID.

### ERECTOR SWEET CLOVER

This is a very recent development in a yellow flowered sweet clover and appears to be a most promising variety. It is an early bloomer, began blooming here May 28 and continued swarming with bees to the end of June. It is a tall growing variety and makes a very leafy and vigorous growth.

Seed is very scarce. Per packet 15c, postpaid.

### HAIRY VETCH

(*Vicia villosa*)

The Hairy Vetch, also known as Winter Vetch, is much used for green manure and cover crop, and for hay and pasture in some sections. It acts as a biennial when planted in the spring and as a winter annual when planted in the fall. An excellent source of fine quality honey in some localities. Long blooming period.

Seed, packet, 15c; two pounds \$1.00; postpaid.

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## SHRUBS

### VITEX

#### (*Incisa negundo*)

This long-lived shrub or small tree furnishes abundant bloom which the bees work freely and constantly over a long blooming period in late summer and fall. Attractive in both foliage and flower it is unsurpassed as an ornamental shrub for latitude of central Missouri and southward where it reaches height of from eight to fifteen feet. In Iowa it often kills to the ground in winter, growing from the crown the following season. It is one of the very best shrubs to plant for nectar in the South and has value further north. We consider it very worth while here in our gardens. Though it often kills back in winter it is winter hardy. It is a nice ornamental and a favorite of the honey bee.

The seed germinates slowly and requires favorable conditions. Plant in garden seedbed early in the spring. Water often to keep the soil constantly moist during germination period which is usually two to four weeks.

Seed, packet, 20c; 2 ounces, \$1.00; postpaid.

### LESPEDEZA BICOLOR

This is a shrubby lespedeza which bee-keepers may well heed. It blooms freely in late summer, is very attractive to the bees and can be expected to be a good source of surplus honey where it can be popularized to become sufficiently plentiful. It is attractive in both foliage and flower and is a long lived perennial suitable for screen or hedge. The seed is a preferred food of quail and for this reason it is being used rather extensively in some sections to serve a dual purpose of erosion control and furnish cover for wildlife. It will not usually mature seed in Northern States but will provide a good fall source of nectar as far north as central Iowa and central New England. It is reported winter hardy at Brandon, Manitoba, Canada. We have a planting of the *Lespedeza Bicolor* and *Cyrtobotra* which is more than ten years old. We like them both for their ornamental value and attractiveness to bees.

Fairly easy to grow from seed, the seed can be planted on prepared ground where it is wished to remain; for small plantings it is better to start the seed in garden row and transplant to permanent position the following spring. Plant the seed in the spring when moisture conditions are good any time after severe frosts are past.

Seed, per packet, 20c; per pound, \$2.50; postpaid

### LESPEDEZA CYRTOBOTRA

*Lespedeza Cyrtobotra* is another shrubby species from Asia. It is perennial and requires about three years to reach full maturity. It begins blooming in the second season and is very attractive to the bees. This species apparently yields more nectar than any lespedeza that we have thus far been able to secure. It reaches a height of about six feet on our grounds. Fall bloomer.

We do not have seed of this item at the time this is printed but expect to have some later on. You may order



packets at 20c each, naming a second choice, or write us regarding availability.

### PEA TREE

(*Caragana arborescens*)

The pea tree is a very hardy shrub or small tree which comes from Siberia. It is drought resistant and is much used for hedge in the Dakotas and in western Canada. It is a free bloomer and the pea-like blossoms yield an abundant supply of well flavored honey in spring.

Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid.

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## *PERENNIAL HONEY PLANTS*

### MOUNTAIN MINT

(*Pycnanthemum pilosum*)

This one of our native plants has merits which have too long been overlooked. It blooms heavily for a long period beginning in July, and is very attractive to the bees. Its mass of bloom and very pronounced mint flavor make it desirable for both bee garden and herb garden.



Norman Pellett with the first commercial planting of Mountain Mint, his 4-H project.

Of most importance may be the commercial aspects of this plant. Tests indicate that a very much heavier yield of oil can be distilled from this plant as compared to most yields obtained from other mints now in commercial production. Investigation is under way in an effort to determine the commercial value of the oil.

Mountain Mint came to light in the American Bee Journal Test Gardens in the increase from a few plants

which Frank C. Pellett dug from a hillside overlooking the Current River in Missouri. It is native to some of the hilly wooded areas of the Middlewest. It is an abundant source of nectar and has been reported as a source of surplus honey in some localities along the Mississippi River.

Try this plant in your garden; we believe you will like it. Ask us for the reprint, "Mountain Mint."

The seed is tiny, probably more than 100,000 seeds to the ounce.

Seed, per packet, 20c;  $\frac{1}{4}$  ounce, \$1.00; per ounce, \$3.00; postpaid.

Also plants, see inside back cover.

### THE BEE GARDEN

Both commercial bee-men and hobbyists have much to gain by the cultivation of a bee garden. A bee garden can be made to furnish a bit of nectar for your bees during the off season and more important, it can provide within easy reach a means for the owner to study a variety of honey plants and learn which might be adaptable and desirable for his



locality. Most localities are in need of more honey plants. A bee garden is an economical way of finding plants which can be used to better your bee pasture and also can provide a diversification and real enjoyment for those who make of it either a minor or major hobby.

A bee garden may occupy a little space or be as extensive as the owner wishes to make it. Under the strain of present day living we are in need of daily diversification. A variety of flowers being visited by bees in search of nectar provides an ideal atmosphere for one to drop his troubles and marvel at the wonders of nature.

Invite your friends to enjoy the bee garden with you. You may explain with pride that the more nectar flowers there are present continuously to build strong colonies, the more bees there will be to pollinate the fruits, gardens and fields of the neighborhood.

**PYCNANTHEMUM FLEXUOSUM**, known as Narrow-Leaved Mountain Mint, also blooms over a long period beginning in mid-summer. It is attractive to the bees and reported as a valuable source of nectar in Missouri.

Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid.

### GARDEN SAGE

(*Salvia officinalis*)

The garden sage has been cultivated for centuries for its aromatic leaves which are used in flavoring foods. It is a long lived perennial and should be included in every garden. The flowers are attractive to bees and a high quality honey is gathered from garden sage. Blooms in June.

Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid.

### MEADOW SAGE

(*Salvia pratensis*)

This very hardy perennial sage provides good bee pasture for several weeks in the spring when forage is scarce. Here it blooms in May following the dandelion and fruit bloom and continuing usually until the White Clover has started, thus filling a gap when nectar is needed for the spring buildup. It grows close to the ground, except in blooming stage, when the flowering stems reach a height of about two feet with abundant purple flowers. It is a nice ornamental and attracts attention, since it blooms early when there is not yet much bloom in the flower garden. We find it long lived and drought resistant. It stands reasonable competition and spreads slowly from self-seeding. Apparently this is a good plant for naturalizing along road-sides and borders. Weeds can be mowed over it without injury to the meadow sage. You will like this plant in your flower garden.

Ask us for the reprint, "New Sages for Bee Pasture."

Seed, packet, 20c; per ounce, \$1.00; ¼ pound, \$3.00; postpaid.

Also plants, see inside back cover.



Meadow Sage is abundant in nectar at a time in the spring when there is little else for the bees.

**SUMMER SAGE****(*Salvia superba*)**

This is a strong growing sage reaching a height of about three feet and blooming intermittently all season. It blooms very freely in June and again in September with some flowers all summer. It is usually swarming with bees. It is ornamental and good for naturalizing. Perennial.

Sorry no seed for 1950. For plants see inside back cover.

**SALVIA VIRGATA**

This strong growing perennial blooms freely in mid-summer, following the early bloom of Summer Sage. It reaches a height of three to four feet with light blue flowers. Much visited by bees.

Sorry no seed for 1950. For plants see inside back cover.

**ANISE HYSSOP****(*Agastache anethiodora*)**

This wonder honey plant attracts the bees more consistently than any other of the 500 under observation in the American Bee Journal trial gardens. We know no other plant which the bees will work so freely, all day and every day, and for so long a blooming period as Anise Hyssop, under right conditions.

Anise Hyssop furnishes an abundance of bloom beginning early in June. It blooms heavily for over two months and continues with some bloom until October. It is native to the middlewest and pioneer settlers reported fine crops of good quality honey from it. The plant is perennial and usually reaches a height of about four feet. It blooms the first year from seed.

Anise Hyssop is an old Indian herb and of special interest to herb gardeners. The abundance of bloom makes it desirable for flower gardens as well.



A vigorous plant of Anise Hyssop has many branches like the above.

A correspondent writes us: "... Here in Minnesota it proves to be the best honey plant in this section. More attractive to the bees than Sweet Clover. I believe every bee-keeper should seed this plant for his future bee-pas-

ture. . . . ”

The seed starts slowly and usually requires weeding the first season. It is an attractive plant for bee and herb gardens in many places and for some it is proving worth while to make larger plantings, especially for bee pasture.

Ask us for reprint, “Anise Hyssop—Wonder Honey Plant.”

The seed is small, perhaps a half million seeds to the pound.

Seed, packet, 20c; per ounce, \$1.50; ¼ pound, \$5.00; postpaid.

Also plants, see inside back cover

## GIANT HYSSOP

(*Agastache Scrophulariaefolia*)

The giant hyssop is a perennial common to open woodlands and partially shady places which flowers in August and September. It reaches a height of five or six feet and is one of the really good bee plants.

Seed, 20c per packet, postpaid.

## WILD INDIGO

(*Baptisa*)

This attractive perennial is worthy of much more common cultivation. Dozens of stalks arise from a single root in a well established plant and often reach a height of three feet with large clusters of pea-like flowers. Perennial, native to the Mid-West prairies. Very attractive to the bees.

Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid.

## WILD MARJORAM

(*Origanum vulgare*)



Wild Marjoram blooms over a long period, beginning in mid-summer, and is a favorite of the honey-bee. It is an attractive perennial, growing 1½ to two feet tall. It is a European plant cultivated in gardens and naturalizes readily under right conditions in this country. It is promising for use as an ornamental in such situations as roadside plantings where one that will withstand reasonable competition is needed. You will like it in your garden.

Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid.

Also plants, see inside back cover.

## GARDEN HYSSOP

(*Hyssopus officinalis*)

This is the old world herb Hyssop and should not be confused with either the Anise Hyssop or Giant Hyssop, since it is an entirely different plant. It is usually swarming with bees for weeks from June to September. Though it kills to the ground in winter, the stocky, thick spreading



growth makes it appear during summer and fall as a low growing shrub. Perennial, grows to two feet in height. The numerous blue flowers, though not showy, are quite ornamental. One of the finest honey plants and especially desirable for border plantings.

Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid.

### SEA HOLLY

(*Eryngium planum*) in the flower garden or border is a very striking perennial with its blue stems and flower heads growing to about three feet. A delightful picture with bees and other insects hovering over this handsome plant.

Seed, packet, 20c, postpaid.

### PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

(*Lythrum salicaria*)

This is a promising bee plant which is an attractive ornamental and under cultivation it is adaptable to most soils. It is often found in flower gardens where it is grown for the beauty of its abundant pink flowers.

Purple Loosestrife is especially adapted to moist or boggy land and under these conditions has naturalized readily in some localities and is reported as a major source of honey where sufficiently plentiful. Some bee-keepers have improved local bee pasture by sowing along streams and around ponds. The plant gradually spreads down stream. It blooms heavily, beginning in mid-summer and lasting for a long period, sometimes until frost. It is a perennial, growing from three to six feet in height.

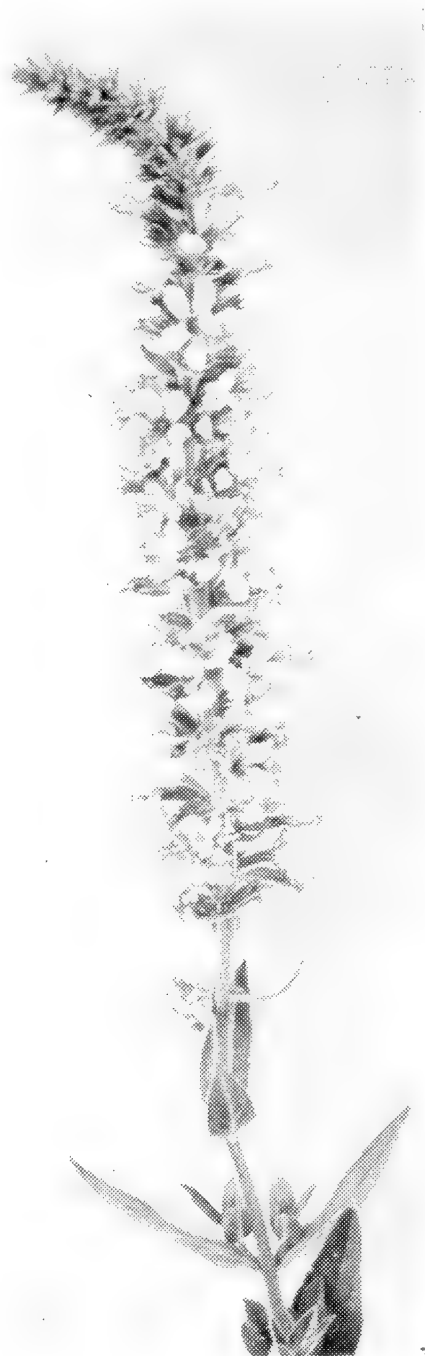
The seed is tiny, with a very large number of seeds per ounce.

Seed, packet, 20c; per ounce, \$1.00;  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound, \$5.00; postpaid.

### JERUSALEM SAGE

(*Phlomis tuberosa*)

This tall growing plant which reaches a height of four to six feet is a showy member of the mint family from Asia. Like other mints, it is attractive to the bees. It is of easy



culture, spreads slowly and is well suited to background planting in the garden or naturalizing in waste places for bee pasture. Blooms in mid-summer.

Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid.

## ASTER

The wild asters are the last source of nectar in many localities. We offer a mixture of several of the most ornamental varieties, including New England aster and arrow leaf aster. All are worthy of a place in the garden. Perennial.

Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid.

Also plants, see inside back cover.

## CHAPMAN HONEY PLANT

(*Echinops spaerocephalus*)

Chapman Honey Plant, also known as Globe Thistle, once enjoyed a real boom among the bee-keepers. The plant is a biennial and reaches a height of six feet. It blooms heavily in mid-summer. The flowers are covered with bees and are grown for ornament. The plant is very easily grown and can be planted either spring or fall.

Seed, per packet, 20c; ½ pound, \$1.00; postpaid.

## ECHINOPS RITRO

The blue flowered Chapman Honey Plant is perennial, growing to a height of about four feet on our soil. It is not nearly so tall as the other variety but is more desirable



The Echinops have a globe shaped flower.

as an ornamental. It comes into bloom somewhat later and lasts into September.

Seed, per packet, 20c; ¼ pound, \$1.00; postpaid.

**CATNIP or CATMINT****(*Nepeta cataria*)**

This best known member of the Catnip family blooms over a long period, beginning in mid-summer. It is very rich in nectar and attracts the bees in large numbers. It is perennial, easy to grow and one of the very best of honey plants for naturalizing in waste places. This plant was common to herb gardens of pioneer days, grows three feet tall.

Seed, packet, 15c; ounce, 75c; ¼ pound, \$2.50; postpaid.

**NEPETA NUDA**, known as Beemint, this member of the Catmint family is a taller plant with upright growth reaching a height of four or five feet. It blooms in mid-summer and is rich in nectar. Perennial. Seed, small packet, 20c. **NEPETA GRANDIFLORA**, still another good honey plant of the Catnip family, this one blooms intermittently from mid-summer to late fall. Grows to a height of two to three feet with spreading growth. Perennial. Seed, small packet, 20c, postpaid.

**GOLDEN HONEY PLANT****(*Actinomeris alternifolia*)**

**Golden Honey Plant grows wild in sheltered locations.**

Golden Honey Plant, also known as Wingstem or Crown-beard, is one of the best native honey plants of the Mississippi valley. Where this plant is plentiful the bee-keeper need never worry about abundant stores for winter. It is a rather coarse perennial about five feet tall with irregular yellow flowers. It blooms in August and never fails to find the bees working it. It will grow in either sun or partial shade; does best in sheltered situations such as partly wooded areas or woodland borders. Once started in favorable environment, it will gradually spread around. It is often found growing in sparse timber along streams.

Seed, per packet, 20c; 2 ounces, \$1.00; postpaid.

**SIMPSON'S HONEY PLANT****(*Scrophularia marilandica*)**

Simpson's Honey Plant, also commonly known as Figwort, has long been famous for its rich store of nectar for the bees. The flowers are small but abundant and rich in honey. The plant is perennial and grows from three to six feet high. It will grow in either sun or shade and is often found growing wild in wooded areas. It blooms in the fall.

Seed, per packet, 20c; ounce, \$1.00; postpaid.

**EUROPEAN FIGWORT**

We have three European species of Figwort or *Scrophularia*. The three are similar in appearance, growing to a height of about three feet in our gardens. They bloomed for quite a long period, beginning in mid-summer with numerous flowers which were similar in appearance to those of our American Simpson's Honey Plant. Very attractive to the bees. We offer seed in mixture of the three species.

Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid.

**MOTHERWORT****(*Leonurus cardiaca*)**

Motherwort blooms over a long period beginning in summer and sometimes continuing to late in the fall. It is an abundant source of nectar and the bees are attracted to it in large numbers. This perennial, native of Asia, has become naturalized in many American localities. It is easily raised from seed and, once established, should remain with little attention for many years. Grows two to four feet tall. One of the best of honey plants to naturalize in waste places for bee pasture.

Seed, per packet, 20c; per ounce, \$1.00; postpaid.

**HOREHOUND****(*Marrubium vulgare*)**

Horehound is a well known herb which comes from Eurasia and has become naturalized over parts of the United States. It blooms from July to September and the flowers attract many bees. It is the source of much dark honey in some localities.

Seed, per packet, 15c; ounce, \$1.00; postpaid.

## ANNUALS

### GOLDEN CLEOME

(*Cleome lutea*)



Our annual Golden Cleome or Yellow Spider Flower.

Golden Cleome or Yellow Spider Flower makes a large growing ornamental in one season growth. Though native to a dry region (the southwest) it will also thrive in more humid climates, and, if given cultivation and plenty of room, reach a height of six or seven feet and bloom from July until frost, with a constantly increasing number of flower clusters. It is ideal for background. A single plant with plenty of room may resemble a young tree with much yellow bloom all late summer and fall. The plant is annual and self-sows freely. One of the finest of honey plants, very attractive to bees and other insects.

Seed, packet, 20c; per ounce, \$1.00; postpaid.

### PHACELIA

The fiddle neck phacelia (*Phacelia tenacetifolia*) is an annual of easy culture and the flowers are covered with bees from morning till night. This plant is native to California but has been widely cultivated in European gardens as a honey plant, also grown to some extent for forage. It reaches a height of about two feet, with blueish or pink flowers. A famous bee plant.

Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid.



**BORAGE**

Borage has long been famous as a bee plant and has been much planted in European honey plant gardens. It is an annual native to Europe and North Africa.

Although the honey is dark and not of the best quality, the bees visit the flowers so freely that it should be included in every extensive collection of honey plants. It is a hardy plant, blooming for a long period.

Seed, per packet, 15c, postpaid.

**MIGNONETTE**

(*Reseda odorata*)

Mignonette has long been a favorite with those who have bee gardens. The bloom is very fragrant. Some very extravagant claims have been made as to the amount of honey to be secured from this source. While there is no proof that such yields can be secured, the flowers are very attractive to the bees and it seems probable that if enough of it were available good crops might be harvested. Try it in your garden.

Seed, per packet, 15c; ounce, 60c; postpaid.

**CALIFORNIA POPPY**

The California poppy is a familiar plant to those who have visited the West Coast in springtime. In the East it is grown as an annual. It reseeds freely and is easily grown in gardens or naturalized in sunny situations. The bees visit the flowers in large numbers for pollen. It blooms over a long period.

Seed, per packet, 15c; ounce, 60c; postpaid.

**SAFFLOWER**

Safflower is a fast growing annual which reaches a height of about three feet. The large yellow flowers are of interest in the garden but it is cultivated principally as a source of drying oil in demand by the paint and varnish industry. Bees visit the flowers freely and indications are that it will prove to be a good honey plant.

Seed, per packet, 15c, postpaid.

**SESAMUM**

Sesamum is an annual of easy culture. It grows to a height of three feet in this climate and the large flowers are very attractive to the bees. It blooms in late summer. It is an important source of edible oil in the tropics and some experimental plantings are conducted in this country for study of possible commercial adaptation.

Seed, per packet, 20c, postpaid.

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## **BOOKS**

### **A LIVING FROM BEES, by Frank C. Pellett**

A cloth bound book of 335 pages, well illustrated, which, as its title suggests, outlines proved methods of making a living from bees. The fundamentals of honey producing are explained with reasons for every necessary manipulation.

Conditions under which beekeeping is practical as an exclusive business and when it is better to be followed as a sideline are discussed at length. \$2.50, postpaid.

### **AMERICAN HONEY PLANTS, by Frank C. Pellett**

The fourth revised edition of this book includes more than 100 plants not mentioned in previous editions. The most complete and practical book on honey plants ever published. With 200 illustrations and 467 large pages, the honey plants of the entire United States and Canada are extensively reviewed. Beautifully printed and bound in serviceable buckram, it is a fine example of the highest type of bookmaking. About 1,200 plants which are important to the beekeeper are discussed, with distribution, time of blooming, quality and yield of honey and other useful information. \$6.00, postpaid

### **HOW TO ATTRACT BIRDS, by Frank C. Pellett**

This little book of 156 pages, fully illustrated with the author's photographs, is an account of forty years' experience with wild birds in several localities. Suggestions for attracting birds by means of providing nest boxes, storm shelters, watering and feeding stations and providing suitable surroundings are helpful in any situation. \$2.50, postpaid.

### **SUCCESS WITH WILD FLOWERS, by Frank C. Pellett**

An account of the author's forty years' experience in growing wild flowers in a five acre preserve. Illustrated with numerous photographs and color plates. Cloth bound, 175 pages, \$2.50, postpaid.

### STRAWBERRY PLANTS

We are also growers of strawberry plants. We will be pleased to fill your needs in April with nice, very fresh dug plants, shipped direct to you from our doubly inspected fields. We have simplified to two varieties which are unsurpassed for use in the mid-dlewest.

Shipments beginning soon as weather permits—late March and ending April 30.

SENATOR DUNLAP, June bearing—50 for \$1.25; 100 for \$2.00; 200 for \$3.75; 500 for \$7.50; postpaid. 1,000 for \$12.00, express, not prepaid.

NEW GEM, Everbearing—50 for \$2.00; 100 for \$3.50; 200 for \$6.50; 500 for \$13.50; postpaid.

**ORDER AND PLANT EARLY.** You have looked through our catalog and this is just a suggestion—that you make your selections and send in your order so as to be ready to plant at the most favorable time. Seeds of some of our native plants need cool weather for germination and should be sown with the first breath of spring.

**FOLLOW PLANTING DIRECTIONS.** We will send planting directions with the seed you order. Read the directions carefully; we want you to have success with your seeds. We have grown some of all of these plants from seed and we find that some of them are as easy to start from seed as garden vegetables, while others germinate slowly and require the right conditions. You will find our seed packets liberal, except for a very few items which are in short supply.

### CONDITIONS OF SALE

These offerings are made, subject to stocks unsold; we may sell out of some items. This catalog cancels all lists previously issued.

Remit by check or money order. Currency remittances at your own risk.

You have probably noticed that practically all prices quoted herein are postpaid. We will either insure the parcel or guarantee safe arrival anywhere in the U. S. A. Plants we offer will be well packed for shipping. Any claims must be made within ten days of receipt of order. We try to send out only good seeds and plants and we use much care to keep our varieties pure and true to name. However, since results also depend on such factors as soils, climates, weather, knowledge and skill of the purchaser, etc., over which we have no control, we cannot in any way be responsible for the crop. It is mutually agreed that our liability in any instance is limited to the original purchase price.

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**VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME  
AT PELLETT GARDENS**

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**PELLETT GARDENS**

Atlantic, Iowa

Please send the following to:

I enclose \$ .....

Des. on Pg. No.	Items	Quantity Wanted	Amount	
	<b>FORAGE CROPS</b>			
4	Birdsfoot Trefoil (certified)		\$	
5	Big Trefoil			
5	Wagner Flat Pea			
6	Sainfoin			
7	Pellett Clover (root divisions) Ship roots at once or ship about .....			
9	White Dutch Clover			
9	Ladino Clover (certified)			
9	Strawberry Clover			
9	Sweet Clover (mixed common)			
9	Hubam Sweet Clover			
10	Madrid Sweet Clover			
10	Evergreen Sweet Clover			
10	Special packet collection forage crops (10 packets for \$1.00)			
10	Erector Sweet Clover			
10	Hairy Vetch			
	<b>SHRUBS</b>			
11	Vitex			
11	Lespedeza Bicolor			
11	Lespedeza Cyrtobotra or substitute			
12	Pea Tree			
	<b>PERENNIAL HONEY PLANTS</b>			
12	Mountain Mint (P. pilosum)			
14	Pycnanthemum Flexuosum			
14	Garden Sage			
14	Meadow Sage			
15	Anise Hyssop			
16	Giant Hyssop			
16	Wild Indigo			
16	Wild Marjoram			
16	Garden Hyssop			
17	Sea Holly			
17	Purple Loosestrife			
17	Jerusalem Sage			
18	Aster (mixture wild aster seed)			
	<b>CARRIED FORWARD</b>			

Des. on Pg. No.	Items	Quantity Wanted	Amount	
	<b>CARRIED FORWARD</b>		\$	
18	Chapman Honey Plant			
18	Echinops Ritro			
19	Catnip or Catmint			
19	Nepeta Nuda			
19	Nepeta Grandiflora			
19	Golden Honey Plant			
20	Simpson's Honey Plant			
20	European Figwort			
20	Motherwort			
20	Horehound			
	<b>ANNUALS</b>			
21	Golden Cleome			
21	Phacelia			
22	Borage			
22	Mignonette			
22	California Poppy			
22	Safflower			
22	Sesamum			
	<b>BOOKS</b>			
23	A Living From Bees			
23	American Honey Plants			
23	How to Attract Birds			
23	Success With Wild Flowers			
	<b>STRAWBERRY PLANTS</b>			
24	Senator Dunlap			
24	New Gem Ship Strawberries about April 1950			
	<b>PLANTS OF PERENNIALS</b>			
27	Mountain Mint, divisions			
27	Meadow Sage, one year seedlings			
27	Salvia Virgata, one year seedlings			
27	Summer Sage, one year seedlings			
27	Anise Hyssop, one year seedlings			
27	Wild Marjoram, divisions			
27	New England Aster, divisions			
25	Special Collection Offer of Plants Ship plants at once; or about 1950 (Date not later than April 15th)			
	<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>		\$	

Any special instructions, write on separate sheet.

We try to send out only good seeds and plants and we use much care to keep our varieties pure and true to name. However, since results also depend upon such factors as soils, climates, weather, knowledge and skill of the purchaser, etc., over which we have no control, we cannot in any way be responsible for the crop. It is mutually agreed that our liability in any instance is limited to the original purchase price. **PELLETT GARDENS, Atlantic, Iowa.**



## PLANTS

You may prefer to start with plants of some of the perennial honey plants. This is quicker than seed and in some cases easier. We offer the following plants. We will have some in storage for winter shipments south and will dig more for early spring orders. Some of them will not stand the exposure to ship well in warm weather so we offer them only for fall, winter and early spring shipments, closing April 15th. They are hardy plants, so as soon as the frost is out is time to plant. The following offer is for this winter and early spring. Send for our list of plants available next fall.

You may place your order for plants at any time this winter or early spring. If not for immediate shipment, state when you would like to have them shipped and we will ship as near that time as weather conditions permit.

All plants are packed in bundles of amounts listed. We do not break bundles, so please order in multiples of the smallest amounts listed.

We do not ship plants outside of the United States.

**MOUNTAIN MINT** (*pycnanthemum pilosum*)—Large divisions, 3 for \$1.00; dozen, \$3.00; postpaid.

**MEADOW SAGE** (*salvia pratensis*), one year seedlings, 10 for \$1.00; 30 for \$2.50; postpaid.

**SALVIA VIRGATA**, one year seedlings, 6 for \$1.00; dozen, \$1.75; postpaid.

**SUMMER SAGE** (*salvia superba*), one year seedlings, 6 for \$1.00; postpaid.

**ANISE HYSSOP** (*agastache anethiodora*), one year seedlings, 6 for \$1.00; dozen \$1.75; postpaid.

**WILD MARJORAM** (*origanum vulgare*), large divisions, 3 for \$1.00; dozen, \$3.00; postpaid.

**NEW ENGLAND ASTER**—This is the most showy of the wild asters. Divisions, 4 for \$1.00; per dozen, \$2.50; postpaid.

### Special Collection Offer of Plants

3 large divisions Mountain Mint, 10 one-year seedlings Meadow Sage, 6 one-year seedlings Salvia Virgata, 6 one-year seedlings Anise Hyssop, 3 large divisions Wild Marjoram, 4 divisions New England Aster:

**\$6.00 VALUE FOR \$5.00 POSTPAID**

## PELLETT GARDENS

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